

I've spent the past 5 months figuring out what it means to be a high school graduate. Let me tell you, I've got nothing but good things to say about it. you can go to the bathroom whenever you want, you can wear hats...but more importantly, you can make your own schedule, you can decide what you want to do with your time. I've also spent a fair amount of time reflecting on what exactly I learned in high school. the most important thing that I've come up with is that I don't really know anything. we are only just beginning to figure out what it means to be alive in this world. once I realized this, I felt much better. I figure, it's okay that I don't know what I want to do when I grow up. it's okay that I don't have an answer for everything, or the *perfect* answer for anything. I'm only 18. we have time to make our lives what we want them to be. we have time to create a life that we can look back on and smile about. the only way that can truly be achieved is if you are happy in what you are doing. everything you do should be somewhat meaningful. jobs you have, decisions you make, people you spend time with. all these things should be fulfilling, important, or just fun. if you get in a situation where you don't want to wake up in the mornings, take a minute and think about why that is. if you don't like what you're doing, think about what it is that would make you really happy? do you want to write books? do you want to work on cars or motorcycles? do you want to work in a daycare with little kids? The first step to being happy is figuring out what you should be doing for a paycheck. you deserve to be happy. you deserve to make your life serve you, not the other way around.

Well, hey dana.

Hey joey, what's happening.

not much, same old same old...you know the graduation thing
oh – sweet.

yeah, i know. it's cool.

so... how do you think we should start the speech?

i don't know...some people say you should start with a joke.

ok...a guy walks into a...no...two priests and a...no...why did the

chicken...no...i guess i don't really know any good jokes, joey.

well, we could always start off with a good message, like pay your taxes,
vote

yeah – and don't do drugs, or drink until you're 21.

or we could use a cliché.

what's a clichy?

you know, like be the best you can be

ohhh... a clichy.

yeah

i still don't get it

well joe, why don't you just read the speech that you wrote

oh yeah that one

that seems appropriate right now seeing as we are at graduation

oh yeah and what about those giant props we brought in

it all makes sense now...

